



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Prince William Forest
Park

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Prince William Forest Park **News Release**

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For Immediate Release

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Spring Fever at Prince William Forest Park

TRIANGLE, VA – This spring, Northern Virginia residents looking for family- oriented activities need look no further than Prince William Forest Park, their neighborhood national park. Spring programs begin with a celebration of Women’s History Month on March 12 at 2:00 p.m. and continue through National Park Week to the end of April. The park spring programs celebrate the natural and historical resources contained within the 15,000- acre oasis that is Prince William Forest Park.

Spring Programs include:

Sunday, March 12th at 2:00 p.m.: Women’s History Month

Sisterhood of Spies: The Women of the Office of Strategic Services – Join author Elizabeth McIntosh as she answers questions and autographs her book detailing the role of women in America’s first centralized intelligence agency, the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). National Park Service rangers from Prince William Forest Park will also give a short presentation on the park history as the first Special Operations training camp in the United States (1942- 1945). Sponsored by the Friends of Prince William Forest Park, this program will take place at the Prince William Forest Park visitor center and will conclude with a brief Friends group meeting.

Saturday, April 1st at 7:45 a.m.

Songs of Spring: A Bird & Nature Walk with the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia – Join Kevin Munroe, Staff Naturalist for the Audubon at Home in Northern Virginia program for this morning interpretive nature walk through some of the finest birding habitat and plant communities in Northern Virginia. The focus of the program will be on birds and their songs, but will also take a look at the impressive variety of native plants and an old beaver swamp. Participants will not only walk away with a greater knowledge of this remarkable area, but will gain insights into attracting birds and other wildlife to their property. Walkers and birders of all ages and abilities are welcome! The walk will be no more than 1.5 miles through easy terrain. Walkers should meet at the Prince William Forest Park visitor center at 7:45 a.m. From there the group will caravan to the Farms to Forest trailhead located at the Oak Ridge Campground. Please wear clothing appropriate to the weather and bring binoculars. For more information,

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please contact Kevin Munroe with the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia at 703- 256- 6895 or Prince William Forest Park at 703- 221- 7181.

Sunday, April 9th at 2:00 p.m.

Behind the Scenes “Hard Hat” Tour of Historic Cabin Camp – You are invited to a behind the scenes “Hard Hat Tour” of historic Cabin Camp Pleasant. Park rangers will conduct a tour and discuss the ongoing preservation and maintenance of these historic structures. Meet at the park visitor center at 2:00 p.m. to carpool to the work site. Once at the camp, the program will begin with a brief presentation on the history of Prince William Forest Park. The Civilian Conservation Corps constructed most of the cabins, trails, dams and lakes for the park in the 1930’s. However, the highlight of this tour will be one of the remaining structures erected in the 1940’s when the park closed to the public to serve as a training ground for the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). The event is co- sponsored by the Friends of Prince William Forest Park (FPWFP). After the tour, there will be a brief presentation by the FPWFP.

April 1st - 21st from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.: Cabin Camp Spring Cleaning

Cabin Camp Cleanup: Volunteers Needed!

Join school, scout, and church groups and National Park Service personnel as we prepare for the 70th season- opening of the Prince William Forest Park cabin camps. With 100+ cabins listed as National Historic Structures, shaking these sleepy cabins out of their winter slumber can be a messy challenge. Interested volunteers should sign up their group by calling the Prince William Forest Park cabin camp office at 703- 221- 5843. There are multiple dates and times available to volunteer during the first part of April. Prince William Forest Park will provide the necessary clean- up tools and safety gear...you provide the elbow grease!

Prince William Forest Park is a 15,000- acre natural oasis, preserving the largest Piedmont forest in the National Park System. The park also protects over 150 historic structures built during the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the remains of an abandoned Pyrite (or “Fool’s Gold”) mine. The finest examples of CCC buildings within the park are the 5 cabin camps that were used as overnight “nature camps” for underprivileged children from the Washington, D.C. area for almost 50 years. Today, those cabins can be rented individually or in large groups for a rustic experience in the great outdoors only 35 miles south of Washington, D.C.

While there is no charge for programs, there is a \$5.00 entrance fee per vehicle to the park. Annual park passes are available for \$20.00. Prince William Forest Park also sells and honors the National Parks Pass.

For information on these and other events at Prince William Forest Park, please visit our website at www.nps.gov/prwi or call the visitor center on 703- 221- 7181. The main entrance to Prince William Forest Park is located on Joplin Road (Route 619), just west of Interstate 95 at Exit 150.

If you are interested in learning more about the Friends of Prince William Forest Park (FPWFP), please call Kathy Wentworth- Drahosz at 703- 551- 0734, or visit the FPWFP website at www.fpwfp.org.

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